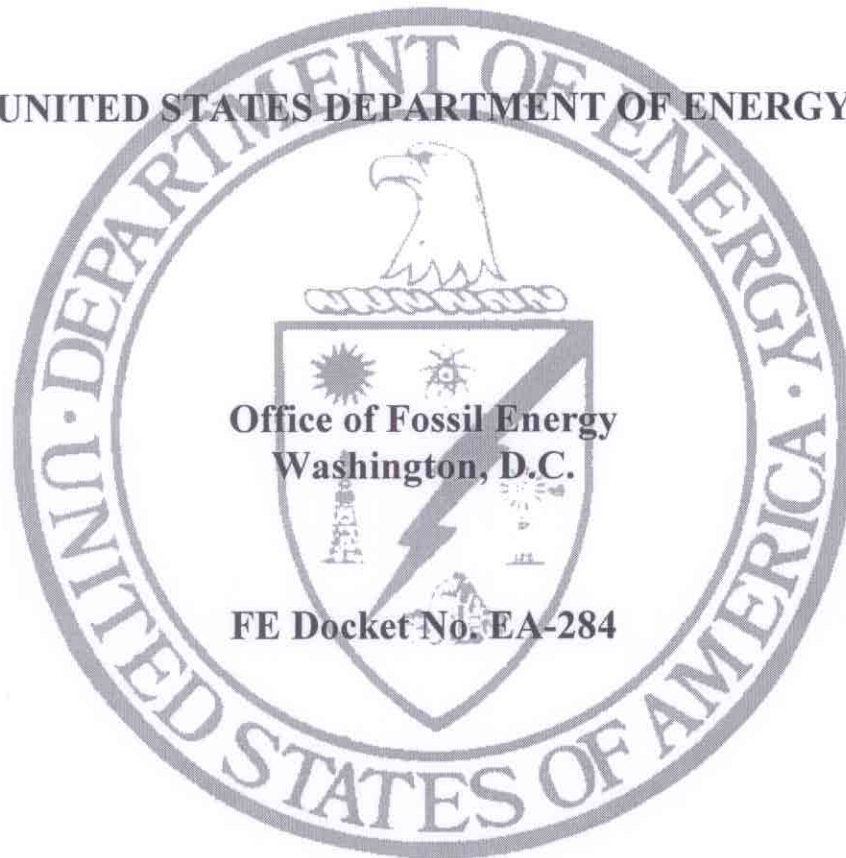


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



Sempra Energy Solutions

Order Authorizing Electricity Exports to Mexico

Order No. EA-284

September 4, 2003

Sempra Energy Solutions

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I. BACKGROUND

Exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. §824a(e)).

On August 6, 2003, Sempra Energy Solutions (SES), a power marketer, applied to the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for authorization to transmit electric energy to Mexico. SES is incorporated in the State of California and has its principal place of business in San Diego, California. SES is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sempra Energy Global Enterprises, which, in turn, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sempra Energy. Sempra Energy owns 100% of San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E). SES does not have a franchised utility service area.

The electric energy which SES proposes to export will be produced by its own generation resources or purchased from electric utilities and Federal power marketing agencies within the United States. The energy to be exported will be delivered to Mexico over the international electric transmission facilities presently owned by SDG&E.

Notice of the SES export application was placed in the *Federal Register* on August 19, 2003 (68 FR 49762), requesting that comments, protests, and petitions to intervene be submitted to the DOE by September 2, 2003. None were received.

II. DISCUSSION and ANALYSIS

The authority requested of DOE by SES is a necessary condition for exporting under section 202(e) of the FPA. Before an electricity export authorization is granted, DOE must evaluate the impact of the export on the reliability of the U.S. electric system by determining whether the export will impair the sufficiency of electric supply within the U.S. and whether it will impede or tend to impede the coordinated use of regional transmission facilities.

Prior to the restructuring of the electric power industry, the only entities able to export were those electric utilities that were contiguous with the U.S. international border that owned international transmission facilities. The exported energy originated from within the exporter's system and standard transmission studies could be performed to determine the impact of the export on regional electric systems.

However, deregulation of wholesale power markets and the introduction of open-access transmission expanded the geographic scope of entities capable of exporting electric energy. Today, at the time of application, the typical exporter cannot identify the source of the exported energy or the electric systems that might be called upon to provide transmission service to the

border. Consequently, traditional transmission studies cannot be used to determine the reliability impacts of the export on regional electric systems.

In evaluating reliability impacts of export proposals, DOE has always used a variety of methodologies and information, including established industry guidelines, operating procedures and/or infrastructure, as well as traditional technical studies where available and appropriate. When determining reliability impacts for exports by power marketers or other entities operating in a similar manner, it is convenient to separate the export transaction into two parts: (1) moving the export from the source to a border system that owns the international transmission connection; and, (2) moving the export through that border system and across the border.

In order to deliver the export from the source to a border system, SES must make the necessary commercial arrangements and obtain sufficient transmission capacity to wheel the exported energy to the border system. In doing so, SES would use domestic transmission facilities for which open-access tariffs have been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). SES also must make reservations for transmission service in accordance with the FERC Open-Access Same-time Information System (OASIS), and must schedule delivery of the export with the appropriate Independent System Operator(s) (ISO) and/or control areas. The posting of transmission capacity on OASIS indicates that transmission capacity is available. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the ISO and/or control area to schedule the delivery of the export consistent with established reliability criteria. During each step of the process of obtaining transmission service, the owners and/or operators of the transmission facilities will evaluate the reliability of the system and schedule the movement of the export only if it would not violate established operating reliability standards. Therefore, DOE has determined that the existing industry procedures for obtaining transmission capacity on the domestic transmission system provide adequate assurances that an export will not impair the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system.

In determining the reliability impacts of moving the export through a border system and across the border, DOE relies on the traditional technical studies that were performed in support of electricity export authorizations issued to that border system. Allowing these technical studies to suffice in this docket is sound and, thus, DOE need not perform additional reliability assessments here, provided the maximum rate of transmission for all exports through a border system does not exceed the authorized limit of the system.

An export authorization issued under section 202(e) does not impose on transmitting utilities a requirement to provide service. However, DOE expects transmitting utilities owning border facilities to provide access across the border in accordance with the principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination contained in the FPA and articulated in FERC Order No. 888 (Promoting Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Non-Discriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities; FERC; Stats. & Regs. ¶31,036 (1996)), as amended. The actual rates, terms and conditions of transmission service shall be consistent with the non-discrimination principles of the FPA and the transmitting utility's Open-Access Transmission Tariff on file with the FERC.

All recipients of export authorizations, including owners of border facilities for which Presidential permits have been issued, are required by their export authorization to conduct operations in accordance with the principles of the FPA and pertinent rules, regulations and orders, which include the comparable open access provisions of FERC Order No. 888, as amended. Cross-border electric trade ought to be subject to the same principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination that apply to transmission in interstate commerce. (See Enron Power Marketing, Inc., 77 FERC ¶61,013 (1996)). Thus, DOE expects owners of border facilities to comply with the same principles of comparable open access and non-discrimination that apply to the domestic interstate transmission of electricity.

III. FINDING

DOE has assessed the impact that the proposed export would have on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. Based on the above discussion and analysis, DOE has determined that the export of electric energy to Mexico as requested by SES, would not impair the sufficiency of electric power supply within the United States and would not impede or tend to impede the coordination in the public interest of facilities provided that for exports through the system of SDG&E, SES shall coordinate exports with SDG&E and/or the control area operator or Independent System Operator (ISO), as appropriate, such that total exports across the SDG&E/CFE interconnection are in conformity with the operating limitations established by the SDG&E/CFE operating nomogram and the Southern California Import Transmission Nomogram.

DOE also has determined that this action is among those classes of actions not normally requiring preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement and, therefore, is eligible for categorical exclusion under Appendix B to Subpart D, paragraph B4.2 of the revised DOE Regulations implementing NEPA. Specifically, this categorical exclusion is provided for transmission of electric energy using existing transmission systems. Documentation of the use of this categorical exclusion has been placed in this Docket.

IV. ORDER

Based on the above, it is hereby ordered that SES is authorized to export electric energy to Mexico under the following terms and conditions:

(A) The electric energy exported by SES pursuant to this Order may be delivered to Mexico only over the following existing international transmission facilities:

<u>Present Owner</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Voltage</u>	<u>Presidential Permit No.¹</u>
San Diego Gas & Electric	Miguel, CA Imperial Valley, CA	230 kV 230 kV	PP-68 PP-79

¹ These Presidential permit numbers refer to the generic DOE permit number and are intended to include any subsequent amendments to the permit authorizing the facility.

(B) Exports authorized herein shall not cause a violation of the terms and conditions contained in existing electricity export authorizations associated with the international transmission facilities identified in paragraph (A) above. Specifically, exports made by SES made pursuant to this Order shall not cause the total exports on a combination of the facilities authorized by Presidential Permits PP-68 and PP-79 to exceed an instantaneous transmission rate of 400 megawatts (MW). Furthermore, all exports made pursuant to this Order must be consistent with the operating limitations established by the SDG&E/CFE operating nomogram and the Southern California Import Transmission Nomogram

(C) Changes by DOE to the export limits in other orders shall result in a concomitant change to the export limits contained in paragraph (B) of this Order. Notice of these changes will be provided to SES.

(D) In scheduling the delivery of electricity exports to Mexico, SES shall comply with all reliability criteria, standards, and guides of the North American Electric Reliability Council, Regional Councils, or independent system operators, as appropriate, on such terms as expressed therein, and as such criteria, standards, and guides may be amended from time to time.

(E) SES shall conduct all operations pursuant to the authorization hereby granted in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Power Act and pertinent rules, regulations, and orders adopted or issued thereunder, including the comparable open access provisions of FERC Order No. 888, as amended.

(F) The authorization herein granted may be modified from time to time or terminated by further order of the DOE. In no event shall such authorization to export over a particular transmission facility identified in paragraph (A) extend beyond the date of termination of the Presidential permit authorizing such facility.

(G) This authorization shall be without prejudice to the authority of any State or State regulatory commission for the exercise of any lawful authority vested in such State or State regulatory commission.

(H) SES shall make and preserve full and complete records with respect to the electric energy exported to Mexico. SES shall furnish quarterly reports to the DOE, within 30 days following each calendar quarter, detailing for each month of the previous quarter: (1) the gross amount of electricity delivered, in kilowatt hours; (2) the consideration received for such energy; and (3) the maximum hourly rate of transmission, in kilowatts. Quarterly reports must be filed regardless of current activity and whether or not deliveries of electric energy have been made. If no transactions have been made, a one-sentence report indicating "no activity" for the previous quarter is sufficient.

Reports shall be submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy, FE-27, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585-0305. Properly identified quarterly reports will also be accepted via facsimile at (202) 287-5736 to meet time requirements, but original copies should still be filed at the above address.

(I) In accordance with 10 C.F.R. §205.305, this authorization is not transferable or assignable, except in the event of the involuntary transfer of this authority by operation of law. Provided written notice of the involuntary transfer is given DOE within 30 days, this authorization shall continue in effect temporarily. This continuance also is contingent on the filing of an application for permanent authorization within 60 days of the involuntary transfer; the authorization shall then remain effective until a decision is made on the new application. In the event of a proposed voluntary transfer of this authority to export electricity, the transferee and the transferor shall file jointly an application for a new export authorization, together with a statement of reasons for the transfer.

(J) Exports authorized herein shall be reduced or suspended, as appropriate, whenever a continuation of those exports would impair or tend to impair the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system.

(K) This authorization shall be effective for a period of three years from the date of this Order. Application for renewal of this authorization may be filed within six months prior to expiration of this authorization.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on September 4, 2003.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Anthony J. Como", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Anthony J. Como
Deputy Director, Electric Power Regulation
Office of Coal & Power Imports/Exports
Office of Coal & Power Systems
Office of Fossil Energy